

## Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 HEW-08 AID-20 SCI-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NSF-04 NAS-01 /140 W

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R 131930Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8094

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 6900

DEPT PASS NSF, NAS, NIH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, AR

SUBJ: RESIGNATION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECRETARY

REF: A) BA-6164; B) BA-6287; C) BA-6331; D) BA-6848

1. SPEECH BY EDUCATION MINISTER IVANISSEVICH (REFTEL D) INCLUDED CRITICISM OF RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN IN UNIVERSITIES; OF HIGH SALARIES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS UNDER (CONICET) SCIENTIFIC CAREER SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY WHEN COMPARED TO TEACHERS' SALARIES; AND OF SMALL NUMBER OF "INVENTIONS" PRODUCED BY ARGENTINE SCIENTISTS.

2. FOLLOWING DAY, S&T SECRETARY OLIVERA ISSUED STRONG PUBLIC STATEMENT OF REBUTTAL IN DEFENSE OF ARGENTINE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. IN STATEMENT, OLIVERA DEFENDED THE SYSTEM OF REVIEW WHICH DECIDES WHAT UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROJECTS WOULD BE SUPPORTED. HE CITED IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNMENT'S "PLAN TRIENAL" IN DETERMINING PRIORITIES WHICH APPLY TO RESEARCH.

3. OLIVERA CRITICIZED SHORTAGE OF FUNDS WHICH LIMITED AMOUNT OF RESEARCH WHICH CAN BE UNDERTAKEN. HE CLAIMED

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THAT ARGENTINA SPENDING ONLY 0.4 PERCENT OF ITS GNP ON R&D,

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, WHEREAS WORLD AVERAGE FIGURE IS 1.4 PERCENT, AND UN-RECOMMENDED FIGURE FOR LDC'S IS 0.5 PERCENT.

4. OLIVERA CAME OUT SQUARELY IN SUPPORT OF CONICET'S SCIENTIFIC CAREER SYSTEM. HE NOTED THAT A RESEARCHER IN ARGENTINA WHO EARNS BETWEEN 5,000 AND 6,000 PESOS (\$ 500 - \$600 AT OFFICIAL RATE) CAN EARN BETWEEN 1,800 AND 2,000 DOLLARS PER MONTH IN BRAZIL. HE STATED THAT IT WAS URGENT TO REDUCE THIS DIFFERENCE TO HOLD THE "BRAIN DRAIN" OF ARGENTINES TO BRAZIL, WITH ITS GRAVE DAMAGE TO THE INTERESTS OF ARGENTINA.

5. OLIVERA POINTED OUT (IN RESPONSE TO IVANISSEVICH'S CALL FOR MORE PRIVATE RESEARCH), THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD HELPED TO FOSTER RESEARCH IN PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, CITING PARTICULARLY SUPPORT FOR NOBEL PRIZE WINNER LUIS LELOIR'S CAMPOMAR FOUNDATION-BIOCHEMICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

6. OLIVERA CONCLUDED WITH WORDS OF THANKS AND PRAISE TO THE ARGENTINE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.

7. NOT SURPRISINGLY, AND NOT LONG AFTER RELEASE OF THIS COMMUNIQUE, IT WAS REPORTED THAT OLIVERA'S RESIGNATION (WHICH HAS BEEN PENDING) WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY THE EDUCATION MINISTER.

8. COMMENT: THAT OLIVERA AND IVANISSEVICH WOULD PROVE INCOMPATIBLE IS NOT TOO SURPRISING. WHAT IS PERHAPS MORE SURPRISING WAS IVANISSEVICH'S CRITICISM OF ARGENTINE RESEARCH AND, EVEN MORE, THE STRONG DEFENSE BY OLIVERA OF CONICET AND OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL. PEINDING SELECTION OF A NEW SECRETARY, MANY THINGS, INCLUDING UNFORTUNATELY AT LEAST ONE OF THE U.S.-ARGENTINA BILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS, WILL AGAIN BE SOMEWHAT UP IN THE AIR.  
HILL

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